

REMARKS

The final Office action dated March 19, 2009, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the enclosed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the following amendments, and consider the following remarks. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. No new matter is added herein.

Applicants' representative Kirk Williams and Examiner Behrang Badii discussed the application on June 19, 2009, as stated hereinafter. Applicants' pointed out that the term "accounting data" was used in the context "network accounting data" (not accounting data used by an accountant). Applicants agreed to clarify, such as by amending the claims to recite "network accounting data collection mechanisms." Additionally, Applicants pointed out that access control lists are used by routers and bridges to control the flow of packet traffic in routers and bridges, and Applicants agreed to amend the claims to clarify such. Applicants pointed out that means for identifying and updating as recited in previously pending claims 21 and 22 actually is based on the matching of the particular item with the access control list entries to identify the particular network accounting data collection mechanism. Applicants and Examiner Badii agreed to withdraw the restriction requirement between the claim sets having independent claims 1, 21, and 25; and Applicants agreed to adjust the claim language of independent claims 21 and 25 to more closely follow that of independent claim 1. Finally, Applicants agreed to include the limitations of the lookup mechanism including an associative memory and adjunct memory lookup operation in each of the independent claims given the definition of an "associative memory" in the specification. Examiner Badii indicated that such changes overcome the outstanding prior art rejections, and should be allowable; however, additional searching and consideration would be required.

Applicants have also amended claims 3, 4, 23 and 24 to conform to the amendments and to correct any typographical errors in their preambles. Additionally, Applicants have copied claims 23 and 24 as new claims 29 and 30 depending from apparatus claim 25.

Given the amendments: which clarify the context of the claims being in a bridge or router, which clarify the meaning of an access control list as used in the claims and the use of the access control list in processing packets to determine the network accounting data collection mechanisms that is updated, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable over the prior art of record. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request all claim rejections be withdrawn, and all claims be allowed.

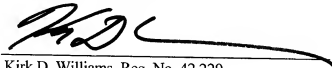
Final Remarks. In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over all prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. Applicant requests any and all rejections and/or objections be withdrawn. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney, as Applicants are open to discussing, considering, and resolving issues.

Applicants believe no extension of time is required. Should an extension of time be deemed appropriate, Applicants hereby petition for such deemed extension of time. Applicants further authorize the charging of Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fees that may be due in connection with this paper (e.g., claim fees, extension of time fees).

Respectfully submitted,
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams

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By



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